## ABSTRACT

A substrate for thioredoxin reductase which comprises a compound represented by the following general formula (I) or (I'):

$$\begin{array}{c|c} R^1 & Y & (CH_2)_n - R^3 \\ \hline & R^5 & \\ R^2 & R^4 & (1) \end{array}$$

wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  independently represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trifluoromethyl group and the like;  $R^3$  represents an aryl group, an aromatic heterocyclic group and the like;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a 'S- $\alpha$ -amino acid group and the like;  $R^5$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group; Y represents oxygen atom or sulfur atom; n represents an integer of from 0 to 5; and the selenium atom may be oxidized, whose example includes 2-phenyl-1,2-benzisoselenazol-3(2H)-one or a ring-opened form thereof. The substrate is reduced by thioredoxin reductase in the presence of NADPH and enhances peroxidase activity of thioredoxin reductase.